

We are writing to ask you not to support House Bill 5058 when it comes up for a vote in committee Tuesday, June 23 or any time after that.

The 475+ acres of state land that this bill proposes to sell to a private party is near our home. We know that the land receives a lot of use by walkers, snowmobiles, hunters, cross country skiers and people who just want to take a drive in the woods or view wildlife. Some of the families who use this land have been doing so for generations. Some are permanent residents of this area and some live downstate but have cabins nearby.

This identical bill was introduced by Rep. Sheltrown last year but died in committee. At that time we contacted all members of the committee about our opposition to it and Rep. Simpson, who was on the committee at that time also, responded to our letter at a later date, as follows: " You have brought to light many valid concerns. The DNR has an established procedure for land exchanges and sales. My research has found that this property is part of an actively managed State Forest and is a popular hunting and recreation area. This is a flawed bill and has been taken off the agenda. I will not support this bill in its current form." We would like to thank Rep. Simpson for researching this issue last year and hope that he continues his opposition to this bill.

The sale of this land troubles many of us who live nearby. Why does this individual want this land when he already owns much other land nearby? Is it going to become another golf course.... there are already 3 that border this land owned by this individual. Isn't that enough? Will it be developed, and if so at what expense to local residents? ... Will we have to help pay for road maintenance to the area? Will we have the expense of putting in sewers to run to this area? Many of the people who live near it are on a fixed or low income.

We were told Mr. Aldridge wants to develop a golf course and it would attract more visitors to the area and help the economy. There are already 3 golf courses adjoining this area! How many more visitors would come for an additional golf course and wouldn't the jobs it might create be seasonal? Right now the area draws many hunters in the fall and snowmobile riders in the winter. These seasonal tourists might go somewhere else in our "off season" taking the jobs their spending creates at this time with them.

We have talked to several of our neighbors since becoming aware of this bill just 2 days ago. They are also opposed to this bill as are others in Iosco County who live at a greater distance from this property. Down state residents who have property in the area are also opposed. Once this land is sold to a private party it is taken from the public forever. We are asking your help to see that this sale does not go through.

Sincerely,
Lloyd Good
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